Cess on ground water

1036. SHRI P. R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the cess on ground water:

(b) whether Government are considering a regulation for multi-national companies using the country's ground water for their purposes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Ministry of Water Resources has set up a Sub-Committee to formulate a policy for water for industries which provides the framework for regulation as well as incentive for economic use for large users of ground water. The Sub-Committee has submitted its report to the Ministry.

(b) and (c) Water being a state subject, any action about regulation in respect of various "uses" or "users" is to be taken by respective State Governments.

Time-frame for completion of the River Linking Project

1037. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the time-frame decided for the completion of River Linking Project;

(b) whether Government have taken a decision over the Action Plans One and Two of the River Linking Project;

(c) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government expect to be able to adhere to the time-frame;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the cost of delay such a delay would entail?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The implementation of inter basin water transfer proposals depends on the consensus and cooperation of the concerned States.

(b) and (c) The Task Force submitted Action Plan-I during April, 2003 giving outline of time schedule for completion of Feasibility Reports, Details Project Reports, Estimated Cost, Implementation Schedule, concrete benefits and Advantages of the Project. Action Plan-II giving alternative options for funding and execution of the projects and suggestion on methods for cost recovery etc. was also submitted during April, 2004. Appropriate follow up action has been taken on the recommendations given by Task Force in respect of Guidance on norms of appraisal, bringing about speedy consensus amongst the States and prioritization of links. The stage has not come for taking decision on the remaining recommendations of the Task Force.

(d) to (f) Do not arise in view of (a) above.